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17  
18 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
19 **FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

20 United States of America,

21 Plaintiff,

22 v.

23 Gear Box Z, Inc.

24 Defendant.

No. CV-20-08003-PHX-JJT

**THE UNITED STATES' MOTION  
AND MEMORANDUM IN  
SUPPORT FOR PRELIMINARY  
INJUNCTION**

**[Oral Argument Requested]**

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ATTACHMENT A – Gear box Z Defeat Device Product List

EXHIBIT 1 – Declaration of Rose Galer

EXHIBIT A – Pertinent excerpts from April 24, 2017 Letter from Matt Salazar (U.S. EPA) to Jerry Black (Gear Box Z, Inc.) requesting information pursuant to CAA Section 208

EXHIBIT B – Pertinent excerpts from June 30, 2017 Letter from Matthew Barlow (Gear Box Z, Inc. Counsel) to Matt Salazar (U.S. EPA) enclosing GBZ response to April 24, 2017 CAA Section 208 Information Request

EXHIBIT C – July 24, 2017 E-mail from Rose Galer to Matthew Barlow requesting additional information about GBZ’s responses, specifically regarding “maintenance mode”

EXHIBIT D – August 25, 2017 Letter from Matt Barlow (Gear Box Z, Inc. Counsel) to Rose Galer (U.S. EPA) responding to follow-up CAA Section 208 responses

EXHIBIT E – September 7, 2017 Email from Rose Galer to Matthew Barlow requesting subsequent additional information regarding “maintenance mode”

EXHIBIT F – September 22, 2017 E-mail from Matt Barlow (Gear Box Z, Inc. Counsel) to Rose Galer (U.S. EPA) responding to follow-up CAA Section 208 request for information

EXHIBIT G – December 22, 2017 Notice of Violation issued to Gear Box Z, Inc.

EXHIBIT 2 – Declaration of Nigel Jones

EXHIBIT 3 – Declaration of Mario Jorquera

**MOTION**

Plaintiff the United States, on behalf of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”), pursuant to Rule 65 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, moves this Court for entry of a Preliminary Injunction enjoining Defendant Gear Box Z, Inc. (“GBZ”), and all persons acting on its behalf, from taking any action related to the sale, offer for sale, or transfer of any products or components listed in Attachment A, or any materially similar products, including related intellectual property. This motion is based upon the following grounds:

(1) The United States filed a Complaint, dated January 3, 2020, alleging that GBZ manufactures, sells, and offers for sale motor vehicle aftermarket products that defeat, bypass, or render inoperative emission controls (“defeat device products”) in violation of Section 203(a)(3)(B) Clean Air Act (“CAA”), 42 U.S.C. § 7523(a)(3)(B).

(2) Unless enjoined by this Court, Gear Box Z will continue to sell its defeat device products.

(3) The United States is likely to establish that the sale and offer for sale of GBZ’s defeat device products, or the causing thereof, violates Section 203(a)(3)(B) of the CAA, and therefore will prevail on the merits of its claims.

(4) A preliminary injunction is necessary to prevent irreparable harm to public health and the environment that will result from continued sales of GBZ’s

1 defeat device products, which defeat emission controls in motor vehicles, thereby  
2 generating excess emissions of harmful air pollutants. The United States would  
3 have no adequate remedy at law, and this Court's ability to fashion effective relief  
4 would be significantly impaired if GBZ's actions continue but is found to be  
5 unlawful.  
6

7 (5) Significant impacts on human health and the environment from the  
8 excess emissions of harmful air pollutants GBZ's defeat device products cause  
9 motor vehicles to generate outweighs any harm to GBZ from enjoining its sale,  
10 offer for sale, or transfer of its defeat device products.  
11

12 (6) Granting the requested preliminary relief will serve the public  
13 interest.  
14

15 (7) This Court has the authority under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure  
16 65 to issue the requested preliminary relief.  
17

18 (8) The United States is not required to give security pursuant to the  
19 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(c).  
20

21 This Motion is supported by the following Memorandum in Support, by the  
22 Declaration of Rose Galer, the EPA Scientist assigned to this matter ("Galer  
23 Decl.") (attached hereto as Ex. 1), by the Declaration of Nigel Jones, the United  
24 States' software expert ("Jones Decl.") (attached hereto as Ex. 2), by the  
25 Declaration of Mario Jorquera, the EPA engineer for motor vehicles emission  
26 controls testing ("Jorquera Decl.") (attached hereto as Ex. 3), and Attachment A,  
27

1 which lists the GBZ's defeat device products at issue. A proposed order granting  
2 a preliminary injunction is lodged herewith. Because this motion and the  
3 supporting memorandum exceed 17 pages, a motion to exceed the page limit has  
4 also been filed with this Court.

## 5 **MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT**

### 6 **INTRODUCTION**

7  
8 The United States' Complaint in this case asserts violations of the Clean  
9 Air Act ("CAA") arising from Gear Box Z, Inc.'s ("GBZ" or "Defendant")  
10 manufacture, sale, and offers for sale, of aftermarket products, commonly known  
11 as "defeat devices," that defeat, bypass, or render inoperative pollution controls  
12 installed in diesel trucks. The CAA explicitly prohibits the manufacture, sale, and  
13 offer for sale of these devices. 42 U.S.C. § 7522(a)(3)(B). These products  
14 severely undermine the Environmental Protection Agency's ("EPA") mobile  
15 source emission control regime. Use of these devices on motor vehicles generates  
16 tons of excess emissions that harm public health and the environment in that they  
17 cause or contribute to adverse health impacts like respiratory problems, heart  
18 attacks, childhood asthma, and premature death. The United States requests that  
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1 this Court enjoin GBZ from selling or transferring these products<sup>1</sup> to prevent  
2 irreparable harm to public health and the environment.

3 EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance designated  
4 stopping the manufacture, sale, and installation of defeat devices on motor  
5 vehicles and engines as one of six national compliance initiatives ("NCI") for  
6 2020-2023.<sup>2</sup> Declaration of Mario Jorquera ("Jorquera Decl.") ¶ 12. EPA has  
7 identified illegally-modified vehicles and engines as contributing substantial  
8 excess pollution that harms public health and impedes EPA and state efforts to  
9 plan for and attain air quality standards. *Id.* Evidence from EPA's investigations  
10 of defeat devices and tampered vehicles demonstrates that each diesel truck with  
11 deleted emission controls generates an average of one ton of excess nitrogen  
12 oxides ("NO<sub>x</sub>") emissions over the remaining life of the deleted vehicle. *Id.* ¶ 13.  
13 EPA also estimates that since 2009, emission controls have been removed or  
14 rendered inoperative on at least half a million diesel trucks. *Id.* This amounts to  
15 roughly 500,000 tons of excess NO<sub>x</sub> emissions over the expected remaining life of  
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21  
22 <sup>1</sup> These products are identified in a product list in Attachment A – "GBZ Defeat  
23 Devices." The requested injunction would pertain to these products, related  
24 intellectual property, and any materially similar products.

25 <sup>2</sup> U.S. EPA, *National Compliance Initiative – Stopping Aftermarket Defeat*  
26 *Devices for Vehicles and Engines*, [https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/national-](https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/national-compliance-initiative-stopping-aftermarket-defeat-devices-vehicles-and-engines)  
compliance-initiative-stopping-aftermarket-defeat-devices-vehicles-and-engines  
(last updated Feb. 21, 2020).

1 the vehicles. Jorquera Decl. ¶ 13. For NO<sub>x</sub> emissions alone, this is the equivalent  
2 of adding nine million fully-controlled diesel trucks to our roads. *Id.*

3 GBZ manufactures and sells defeat devices that physically and/or  
4 electronically disable pollution controls installed in diesel trucks. Declaration of  
5 Rose Galer (“Galer Decl.”) ¶¶ 16, 20. From January 1, 2015 through April 24,  
6 2017, GBZ sold over 8,000 of these defeat devices. *Id.* ¶ 16. Although EPA does  
7 not have sales figures outside of this period, GBZ continues to offer defeat devices  
8 for sale, including its current “Summer Sale” for 20 percent off all of GBZ’s  
9 products. *Id.* ¶ 30. Extrapolating on previously-submitted sales data, EPA  
10 estimates that each month GBZ continues to sell defeat devices results in 132  
11 excess tons of NO<sub>x</sub> alone over the remaining life of the altered vehicles. Jorquera  
12 Decl. ¶ 61. GBZ’s defeat device products thereby have and continue to cause  
13 substantial and illegal excess emissions that irreparably harm human health and  
14 the environment. *Id.* ¶ 59.

15 The United States requests that this Court preliminarily enjoin GBZ from  
16 selling and/or transferring these illegal products, including transferring any  
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1 associated intellectual property, to prevent further harm.<sup>3</sup> As the United States  
2 demonstrates below, a preliminary injunction is justified because (1) there is a  
3 likelihood of success on the merits; (2) without an injunction there will be  
4 irreparable harm; (3) the balance of the equities favors an injunction; and (4)  
5 issuance of an injunction furthers the Congressional intent behind the CAA.  
6

## 7 **BACKGROUND**

### 8 **I. The Clean Air Act and Emissions Standards**

9  
10 Title II of the CAA and the regulations promulgated thereunder establish  
11 standards for the emissions of harmful air pollutants from motor vehicles and  
12 motor vehicle engines, which includes NO<sub>x</sub>, particulate matter (“PM”), carbon  
13 monoxide (“CO”), and non-methane hydrocarbons (“NMHC”). 42 U.S.C. §  
14 7521(a)(3)(A). Diesel truck emissions are a significant source of these pollutants.  
15  
16 Jorquera Decl. ¶¶ 9, 11. As described further in Section II.B.2 of the Argument,  
17 these pollutants are linked to various respiratory issues, cardiovascular health  
18 problems, and premature death and are especially harmful to vulnerable persons  
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21  
22 <sup>3</sup> To narrowly tailor the injunction to mitigate any harm to GBZ, the United States only  
23 requests that this Court enjoin GBZ from selling and transferring defeat devices and  
24 associated intellectual property, although the manufacture of defeat devices is also  
25 prohibited under Section 203(a)(3)(B) of the CAA. While this case is pending GBZ can  
26 continue to manufacture and store its defeat devices provided that it does not distribute  
those devices, and the intellectual property for them, until this matter is resolved  
(although GBZ may incur additional liability if it chooses to do so).

1 such as the elderly, children, and the immune compromised. To reduce air  
2 pollution and achieve long-term goals of improved air quality, EPA has set  
3 emission limits for different classes of motor vehicles and engines. Jorquera Decl.  
4 ¶ 8. *See* 79 Fed. Reg. 23,416 (Apr. 28, 2014) (final rule implementing tier 3  
5 standards). EPA also requires vehicle manufacturers to obtain certificates of  
6 conformity (“COC”) to ensure that every vehicle introduced into United States  
7 commerce is designed and built to meet applicable emissions standards for the  
8 duration of its useful life. 42 U.S.C. § 7522(a)(1).  
9  
10

#### 11 **A. Emission Controls**

12 To meet progressively more stringent emissions standards, the automotive  
13 industry designed and installed highly-sophisticated and efficient emission control  
14 devices and software to reduce emissions. EPA regulations do not require use of  
15 specific emission control devices. Rather, the original equipment manufacturer  
16 (“OEM”) designs and installs a configuration of hardware and software that work  
17 together to control emissions of regulated pollutants to meet the emission  
18 standards for NO<sub>x</sub>, PM, NMHCs, CO, and other air pollutants during the useful  
19 life of the motor vehicle or motor vehicle engine. 42 U.S.C. § 7525(a)(2); *see* 40  
20 C.F.R. §§ 86.007-30(a)(1)(i), 86.1848-01(a)(1). In its COC application, the OEM  
21 describes and documents the emission control strategy it implements – including  
22 specific hardware and software components – to comply with applicable emission  
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standards for that vehicle. 40 C.F.R. §§ 86.094-21(b)(1); *see also* 86.1844-01(d)–  
(e).

The hardware emission control systems in diesel trucks typically include –  
depending on the model year – diesel oxidization catalysts (“DOC”) to control CO  
and NMHCs, exhaust gas recirculation systems (“EGR”) to control NO<sub>x</sub>, diesel  
particulate filters (“DPF”) to control PM, and selective catalytic reduction  
 (“SCR”) systems to further reduce NO<sub>x</sub>. Jorquera Decl. ¶¶ 19-25; Declaration of  
 Nigel Jones (“Jones Decl.”) ¶¶ 14-21. Motor vehicles contain dozens of electronic  
 control units (“ECUs”), which are microprocessors equipped with software  
 calibrations for the various controls in the motor vehicle. Jones Decl. ¶ 22. The  
 engine control module (“ECM”) is the ECU for the engine that is equipped with  
 software calibrations governing the operation of the above-mentioned pollution  
 control hardware, as well as engine operation and performance parameters that  
 affect emissions such as air-fuel ratio, fuel injection timing, fuel quantity, and fuel  
 injection pressure. *Id.* ¶ 13.

The OEM pre-sets, and discloses to EPA in its COC application, the  
 calibrations for these parameters as part of its emission control strategy, which are  
 also known as the “certified stock calibrations.” 40 C.F.R. § 86.2843-01(e)(2).  
 To ensure the proper functioning of emission controls, the CAA requires diesel  
 trucks to be equipped with on-board diagnostics (“OBD”) systems to monitor and  
 detect problems with the emission controls, alert owners, repair shops, and

1 inspection agencies of these problems, and electronically store malfunction  
2 information. 42 U.S.C. § 7521(m); 40 C.F.R. § 86.1806-05, 65 Fed. Reg. 59,896,  
3 59,900-01 (Oct. 6, 2000). The hardware, software calibrations, and OBD are each  
4 installed to ensure that the vehicle meets emission standards promulgated pursuant  
5 to Title II of the CAA.  
6

### 7 **B. Aftermarket Defeat Devices**

8 The above-described vehicle emission control systems are vital to EPA's  
9 efforts to limit air pollution from mobile sources and protect human health and the  
10 environment. Recognizing this, Congress enacted Section 203(a)(3)(B) of the  
11 CAA that makes it illegal for any person:  
12

13 to manufacture or sell, offer to sell, or install any part or component  
14 intended for use with, or as part of, any motor vehicle or motor vehicle  
15 engine, where a principal effect of the part or component is to bypass,  
16 defeat, or render inoperative any device or element of design installed  
17 on or in a motor vehicle or motor vehicle engine in compliance with the  
18 regulations [promulgated under Title II of the CAA], and where the  
person knows or should know that such part or component is being  
offered for sale or installed for such use or put to such use.

19 42 U.S.C. § 7522(a)(3)(B). This provision prohibits parts or components that  
20 bypass, defeat, or render inoperative a “device or element of design” installed in  
21 compliance with CAA regulations. The specific suite of hardware and software  
22 components that OEMs use to comply with EPA's emissions standards are devices  
23 and/or “elements of design” installed in compliance with CAA regulations. These  
24 include the hardware emission controls such as DOC, DPF and EGR, as well as  
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1 the engine software calibrations and the OBD that the OEM presets in the  
2 vehicle's ECM.

## 3 II. GBZ's Aftermarket Defeat Devices

4 GBZ, headquartered in Colorado City, Arizona, manufactures and sells  
5 aftermarket defeat device products for diesel trucks to wholesalers, distributors,  
6 and directly to end-users through its company website and third-party online  
7 retailers, like Amazon and eBay. Galer Decl. ¶ 10. GBZ's defeat devices are  
8 designed and marketed for use on specific makes and models of Dodge, General  
9 Motors ("GM"), and Ford diesel trucks that are sold in the United States. *Id.* ¶ 19.  
10 Certain aftermarket product manufacturers and retailers, including GBZ,  
11 manufacture and sell products that remove and disable emissions controls such as  
12 the EGR, DPF, DOC, SCR and emissions-related calibrations as a means of  
13 enhancing vehicle performance, power, torque, and/or fuel economy because the  
14 proper operation of these controls consumes engine power, fuel, and requires  
15 maintenance. Jones Decl. ¶¶ 13, 15, 16, 19, 44, 45, 72.

20 With the exception of GBZ logo t-shirts, phone and monitor mounts, and  
21 monitors sold without GBZ add-ons, every product GBZ manufactures and offers  
22 for sale is an illegal defeat device. These illegal products are identified in the  
23 product list in Attachment A – "GBZ Defeat Devices." Jones Decl. ¶¶ 1, 111.  
24 GBZ's defeat devices fall into two broad categories: (1) hardware defeat devices,  
25 and (2) software defeat devices. Galer Decl. ¶ 16. Hardware defeat devices  
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27

1 physically remove and/or replace the exhaust system emission-control hardware  
2 installed by OEMs in diesel trucks. Galer Decl. ¶ 16; Jorquera Decl. ¶¶ 31-33.  
3 Examples of GBZ's hardware defeat devices include plates that block the EGR  
4 flow to the engine, known as "block plates," and pipes that replace the  
5 aftertreatment emission control system, which are commonly called "delete pipes"  
6 or "straight pipes." Jorquera Decl. ¶¶ 54-55.

8         Installing hardware defeat devices on a diesel truck typically requires  
9 installation of a software defeat device to "tune" the vehicle so that it functions  
10 without the emission controls. Jones Decl. ¶¶ 45-46. This combination is referred  
11 to as a "full delete," because both the vehicle's hardware and software emission  
12 controls are removed or altered. Jorquera Decl. ¶ 42. Several of GBZ products  
13 are "full delete" combinations or "delete packages" that contain both hardware  
14 defeat devices and software defeat devices packaged together – which typically  
15 includes a straight pipe with a programmer. Galer ¶ 26; Jorquera ¶ 54; Jones ¶ 79.  
16 GBZ manufactures and sells products known as "tuners" which are handheld  
17 devices preloaded with GBZ's "tunes." Jones Decl. ¶ 73. GBZ's tunes are  
18 software files that modify and/or overwrite emissions-related calibrations that the  
19 OEM installed in the vehicles' ECM as part of its emissions control strategy  
20 certified by EPA. Galer Decl. ¶ 16; Jones Decl. ¶¶ 67-68. Specifically, these  
21 tunes electronically disable the sensors related to hardware emissions controls and,  
22 in some cases, modify or overwrite emissions-related engine calibrations such as  
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1 injection timing, air-to-fuel ratio, and fuel injection pressure, thereby increasing  
2 emissions. Jones Decl. ¶¶ 13, 37, 46, 60, 65, 69. GBZ's tunes mask the removal  
3 and/or disabling of emissions controls by changing certified stock calibrations and  
4 reprogramming the ECM so that the OBD will not detect, record, or notify the  
5 owner of hardware or other calibration changes and resulting emissions increases.  
6 *Id.* ¶¶ 13, 26, 52-53, 79-87, 101-105, 110; Jones. Decl. Appdx D ¶¶ 124, 126, 128,  
7 137, 143, 151, 160. As a result, if the vehicle is inspected by municipal or state  
8 authorities that rely only on the malfunction indicator lamp ("MIL") checks or  
9 OBD scans for inspections, tuning makes it more difficult for authorities to detect  
10 the tampering. Jorquera Decl. ¶ 37.

### 13 **III. EPA Enforcement History against GBZ**

14 In August 2016, EPA investigators first identified products on GBZ's  
15 website that appeared to be aftermarket defeat devices. Galer Decl. ¶ 11. EPA  
16 also discovered other online sources of evidence such as public YouTube videos  
17 and Facebook posts providing tutorials on GBZ products which demonstrate that  
18 GBZ products defeat emissions controls. *Id.* On April 24, 2017, EPA sent GBZ  
19 an information request pursuant to its authority under Section 208(a) of the CAA,  
20 42 U.S.C. § 7524(a), seeking information relating to GBZ's manufacture and sale  
21 of aftermarket defeat devices that occurred from January 1, 2015, to April 24,  
22 2017 ("Reporting Period"). Galer Decl. ¶ 14; Ex. A ("208 Request"). GBZ  
23 responded on July 10, 2017, and provided product descriptions and information,  
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1 installation instructions, and sales data. Galer Decl. ¶ 15; Ex. B (“208  
2 Responses”). Based on the information GBZ provided, EPA determined that  
3 during the 28-month Reporting Period, GBZ manufactured and/or sold at least  
4 8,323 defeat devices. *Id.* ¶ 16.

5  
6 In December 2017, EPA issued a Notice of Violation (“NOV”) to GBZ for  
7 the manufacture, sale, and offer for sale of defeat device products, which covered  
8 sales of 129 exhaust replacement pipes, 866 EGR block plates, and 656 tuners –  
9 each a separate violation of the CAA. Galer Decl. ¶ 25; Ex. G (“NOV”). Notably,  
10 the 656 tuners cited in the NOV are products GBZ admitted have delete  
11 capabilities, as they were packed with DPF emulators. *Id.* ¶¶ 15, 26; Ex B. DPF  
12 emulators are devices that simulate signals to the ECM that the DPF is properly  
13 functioning when it has been removed or disabled. Galer Decl. ¶ 16; Jorquera  
14 Decl. ¶ 35; Jones Decl. Appdx D ¶ 137. EPA also identified an additional 6,672  
15 tuners that interfere with the OBD system, but were not included in the NOV  
16 because GBZ made conflicting statements to EPA regarding these devices’  
17 capabilities prior to issuance of the NOV. Galer Decl. ¶ 26. However, after  
18 issuance of the NOV, EPA advised GBZ that the tuners appear to also interfere  
19 with OBD systems and therefore are also illegal. *Id.* ¶ 25. Despite EPA’s notice  
20 that the products in the NOV violate the CAA, and EPA’s emphasis to GBZ  
21 during early discussions that it has concerns regarding all of GBZ’s tuners,  
22 including those not in the NOV, GBZ continues to manufacture and offer for sale,  
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1 and sell, defeat devices and has added new defeat devices to its inventory. Galer  
2 Decl. ¶¶ 26, 30.

3 The United States seeks a preliminary injunction because each day GBZ  
4 illegally sells or transfers these products increases excess emissions and the  
5 associated harm to human health and the environment.  
6

### 7 ARGUMENT

8 When installed, each defeat device that GBZ has sold and will sell causes  
9 diesel trucks to emit excess emissions of harmful pollutants. This Court should  
10 enjoin GBZ's sale and transfer of these devices because, as set forth below, the  
11 United States is likely to establish that GBZ's sale of these defeat devices is  
12 illegal, that ceasing their proliferation will prevent irreparable harm caused by  
13 excess pollution, and thereby further the goals of the CAA.<sup>4</sup>  
14  
15

#### 16 **I. Legal Standard for Issuing a Preliminary Injunction**

17 To obtain a preliminary injunction, Plaintiff must demonstrate (1) it is  
18 likely to succeed on the merits; (2) it is likely to suffer irreparable harm in the  
19 absence of a preliminary injunction; (3) the balance of equities tips in its favor;  
20 and (4) a preliminary injunction is in the public interest. *Winter v. NRDC*, 555  
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24  
25 <sup>4</sup> The transfer of defeat devices and any associated intellectual property, includes but is  
26 not limited to, donating, lending, sharing, or any other action that ultimately "causes" the  
27 sale of defeat devices.  
28

1 U.S. 7, 20 (2008). In the Ninth Circuit, when “serious questions” on the merits are  
2 raised and the balance of hardships tips sharply in the plaintiff’s favor, the  
3 issuance of a preliminary injunction is favored, assuming the other *Winter* factors  
4 are also met. *Alliance for the Wild Rockies. v. Cottrell*, 632 F.3d 1127, 1132 (9th  
5 Cir. 2011). This approach allows for the elements to be balanced so that a  
6 stronger showing of one element may offset a weaker showing of another. *Lopez*  
7 *v. Brewer*, 680 F.3d 1068, 1072 (9th Cir. 2012). Because the United States  
8 satisfies all four *Winter* factors, especially regarding success on the merits and  
9 equitable balancing, this Court should grant the Motion for Preliminary Injunction.  
10  
11

12 **II. The Public is Entitled to Preliminary Injunctive Relief in this**  
13 **Case**

14 **A. The United States is Likely to Succeed on the Merits**

15 As set forth above, to establish a violation of Section 203(a)(3)(B) of the  
16 CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7522(a)(3)(B), the United States must show that: (1) GBZ is a  
17 “person;” (2) GBZ has and continues to manufacture, sell, and offer for sale a  
18 “part or component” intended for use with a motor vehicle or motor vehicle  
19 engine; (3) a “principal effect” of the “part or component” is to “bypass, defeat, or  
20 render inoperative any device or element of design” installed on the vehicle by the  
21 OEM; (4) the affected “device or element of design” was installed by the OEM in  
22 compliance with the mobile source regulations under Title II of the CAA; and (5)  
23 GBZ knew or should have known that the product would be offered for sale or  
24 installed for such use or put to such use. 42 U.S.C. § 7522(a)(3)(B). The only  
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1 element that requires in depth analysis is element (3): whether a principal effect of  
2 the products is to bypass, defeat, or render inoperative an element of design  
3 installed on the vehicle by the OEM, although the other elements are briefly  
4 discussed below.

5  
6 **1. GBZ Is a Person Who Manufactured, Sold, and Offered for**  
7 **Sale Parts or Components Intended for Use With Motor**  
8 **Vehicles**

9 First, GBZ admits it is a person within the meaning of Section 302(e) of the  
10 CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7602(e). *See* GBZ’s Answer, ECF Doc. 9, ¶ 2. Second, since  
11 at least January 1, 2015, GBZ has and continues to manufacture, sell, and offer for  
12 sale parts or components intended for use with EPA certified “motor vehicles” or  
13 “motor vehicle engines.” Galer Decl. ¶¶ 19, 30. GBZ advertises its products for  
14 use with and to be installed on specific Ford, GM, and Dodge diesel trucks. *Id.* ¶  
15 19. These OEMs sought and obtained COCs for these motor vehicles, which  
16 unequivocally demonstrates these are all “motor vehicles” under the CAA. *Id.*  
17 Thus, the first two elements to establish the violations are readily addressed.

18  
19  
20 **2. A Principal Effect of GBZ’s Products Is to Bypass, Defeat, or**  
21 **Render Inoperative a Device or Element of Design on a**  
22 **Motor Vehicle Installed in Compliance with the CAA**

23 GBZ sells two types of products: hardware and software. Both of these  
24 types of GBZ products bypass, defeat, or render inoperative devices and elements  
25 of design installed in the motor vehicle in compliance with the CAA. As  
26 explained above, the OEM installs various hardware and software systems to  
27

1 ensure that each motor vehicle meets CAA emissions standards. These devices  
2 and elements of design include (1) hardware exhaust, such as the EGR, and  
3 aftertreatment systems, such as the DOC, SCR, and DPF; and (2) OEM software  
4 calibrations residing in the vehicle's ECM that operate the hardware pollution  
5 controls, govern emissions-related engine parameters such as air-to-fuel ratio and  
6 engine timing, monitor emissions components to ensure proper functioning in  
7 accordance with the certified stock calibrations, and direct OBD functions as  
8 mandated by the CAA. Jones Decl. ¶ 13. As explained below, GBZ's products  
9 bypass, delete, or render inoperative emission control devices and elements of  
10 design.  
11  
12

13       *Hardware Products.* GBZ's hardware parts are undoubtedly prohibited  
14 defeat devices under the CAA because their only purpose is to remove emission  
15 controls. These parts include: EGR block plates and exhaust replacement pipes  
16 (straight pipes or delete pipes). Galer Decl. ¶ 15; Ex. B. GBZ's own marketing  
17 materials, product manuals, and online statements explicitly acknowledge that its  
18 hardware products defeat emission controls by blocking the exhaust return valve  
19 in the EGR system or physically removing various emission controls and replacing  
20 them with a hollow exhaust pipe. Galer Decl. ¶¶ 11, 16. Jorquera Decl. ¶¶ 32, 54.  
21 Moreover, GBZ admitted in its 208 Responses that all of its exhaust system  
22 components sold during the reported period of sales "enable[s] removal of an  
23 emission related part." Galer Decl. ¶ 15; Ex. B (Table 1 and Table 2). GBZ also  
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1 admitted to selling 866 block plates that disable the EGR and 129 exhaust  
2 replacement pipes that enable the removal of the DPF and/or DOC. *Id.*

3       *Software Products.* It is also evident that GBZ's tunes are prohibited defeat  
4 devices based on the product descriptions, manuals, source code, online customer  
5 communications, and 208 Responses. GBZ admitted in its 208 Response that its  
6 Dodge 3.0 tuner (GBZ-DD30), "disables or renders inoperative an emission  
7 related part," identifying the DPF as the affected emission part. Galer Decl. ¶ 15;  
8 Ex. B (Table 2). GBZ sold 656 of these Dodge 3.0 tuners (GBZ-DD30) during the  
9 Reported Period. *Id.* For GBZ's other tuners with preloaded tunes, the United  
10 States' software expert, Nigel Jones, applied software engineering principles in his  
11 review of GBZ's products for sale on its website—the product descriptions, user  
12 manuals, the product source code, customer Q&As online, and 208 Responses.  
13 Jones Decl. ¶¶ 1, 73. His Declaration thoroughly explains that a principal effect of  
14 GBZ's tuners with preloaded tunes is to bypass, delete, or render inoperative  
15 emission controls. *Id.* ¶ 111.

16       However, given the complexity of vehicle engine software in relation to the  
17 functionality of GBZ' tunes, this topic demands further discussion. Sections a-d  
18 below summarize Mr. Jones Declaration, starting with a general overview of  
19 vehicle software and how it relates to emission controls, in particular the ECM;  
20 ECM hardware; and how software communicates and functions throughout the  
21 vehicle, which are all foundational to tuning. Then, the four tuning methods  
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1 GBZ's software products employ with examples of how these methods impact  
2 emission controls is detailed. Next, Mr. Jones analysis of GBZ's highest grossing  
3 tuner, the Ford 4.0 Programmer, is laid out to illustrate how GBZ's pre-loaded  
4 tuners/programmers perform these methods of tuning resulting in a principal effect  
5 of defeating emission controls.<sup>5</sup> Finally, the last section concludes with a  
6 discussion showcasing examples of various GBZ communications with customers  
7 online, which highlight the delete capabilities and principal effect of its tuners.  
8

9  
10 a. Motor Vehicle Software Programing and Emission Controls

11 All of GBZ's tunes allow end-users to bypass, defeat, or render inoperative  
12 one or more emission controls, including hardware emissions controls and OEM  
13 software calibrations. Jones Decl. ¶¶ 2, 111. GBZ's tuners do so through ECM  
14 programing and signal and Controller Area Network ("CAN Bus") emulation. *Id.*  
15 ¶¶ 2, 53, 87, 111; Jones Decl. Appx D ¶¶ 126, 128, 137, 143, 151. In short, these  
16 tunes make changes to ECM programming in three respects: (1) by electronically  
17 disabling hardware emission controls such as the EGR and DPF; (2) by modifying  
18 (thereby defeating or bypassing) the OEM's certified stock calibrations for certain  
19 engine operations such as the emissions limits that trigger certain emission  
20 controls, engine power, torque, and fuel economy; and (3) by disabling critical  
21  
22  
23

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24  
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26 <sup>5</sup> A similar product analysis for the additional GBZ programmer/tuners offered for sale  
27 on its website can be found in Appendix D of the Jones Declaration. (Ex. 2, Appx. D).  
28



1 OBD functions such as the diagnostic trouble codes (“DTCs”) and MIL (described  
2 in the next paragraph) related to the emission controls. Jones Decl. ¶¶ 13, 26, 52-  
3 53, 79-87, 90, 101-105, 110.

4       *The ECM.* GBZ’s tuners target the ECM because it is the vehicle engine’s  
5 control center, or the engine ECU. *Id.* ¶ 22. The ECM adjusts a host of software  
6 parameters that govern and enable the operation of hardware emission controls  
7 such as the EGR and DPF, software emission control parameters that trigger  
8 emission controls to stay within emission limits, fuel injection timing, air-to-fuel  
9 ratio, engine timing, and OBD functions. *Id.* ¶ 13. OBD functions include  
10 triggering a DTC if a fault is detected, and the illumination of the MIL for certain  
11 issues. *Id.* In some vehicle applications, the ECM will gradually de-rate the  
12 engine power until the malfunction is fixed. Jones Decl. ¶ 13. This is commonly  
13 referred to as limp-home mode because it allows the vehicle to be driven, albeit  
14 slowly, home or to a garage to fix the problem. *Id.* The ECM employs this  
15 notification and de-rating protocol when certain emission controls are removed,  
16 disabled, or malfunctioning. *Id.* GBZ’s delete tunes disable such notifications and  
17 derating, thereby facilitating the removal or disabling of emission controls. *Id.*

18       *ECM Hardware.* Vehicles contain dozens of ECUs that serve as  
19 microprocessors for each vehicle control system. *Id.* ¶ 22. Hardware subsystems  
20 in the ECM, such as microprocessors, sensor inputs, different types of memory,  
21 and the CAN Bus are utilized by tunes to perform tuning functions. *Id.* ¶¶ 23-31.

1 The ECM Flash memory contains the OEM-developed program, which enables  
2 the vehicle to comply with the requirements of the Certificate of Conformity.  
3 Jones Decl. ¶ 26. GBZ tunes change ECM programming by reprogramming the  
4 Flash memory. *Id.*

5  
6 *CAN Bus Interface and Vehicle Data Transmission.* All of the ECUs,  
7 including the ECM, are connected to and communicate through the CAN Bus  
8 interface, which is the network for data transmission throughout the vehicle.

9  
10 *Id.* ¶ 38. ECUs broadcast information on the CAN Bus by sending out messages  
11 and any ECU connected to the CAN Bus can receive any message. *Id.* ¶ 38-39.

12 An ECU interested in a particular parameter configures its CAN Bus interface to  
13 receive a message ID associated with that parameter. Jones Decl. ¶ 50. For  
14 example, an ECU that monitors an emission control system, such as the DPF,  
15 transmits an emission control status message stating whether or not the emission  
16 controls are working correctly. *Id.* ¶ 52. If the status is “OK,” then the ECM  
17 would continue to run normally. *Id.* However, if the status becomes “Not OK,”  
18 then the ECM will likely trigger related DTCs and illuminate the MIL and  
19 potentially cause the vehicle to de-rate into limp home mode. *Id.* The CAN Bus is  
20 accessible through the vehicle’s OBD port on the dashboard. *Id.* ¶ 40. A device  
21 plugged into the OBD port, such as a GBZ tuner, can upload software that uses  
22 various methods to convince the ECM (and OBD) that emission controls are  
23 present and operating properly even if they are not. Jones Decl. ¶ 41.

b. Tuning Methods Used by GBZ Tuners and Programmers

GBZ's tunes modify vehicle software to circumvent emission controls through one or a combination of the following methods. *Id.* ¶ 46.

- 1) **Signal emulation.** An emission-control related sensor is disconnected and then the GBZ tune overrides sensor input data so that the ECM and OBD do not detect the removal and think the circuit is continuing to perform normally, thereby not triggering a DTC or MIL. *Id.* ¶¶ 47-49.
- 2) **CAN Bus emulation.** The tune replaces an emission control ECU with one that emulates the behavior of the original ECU but sends out false information. This works by communicating to the ECM that emission controls are functioning, even if they are removed or disabled. *Id.* ¶¶ 50-53.
- 3) **Mapping table modification.** The tune modifies the OEM data used by the ECM that is stored in a form called a mapping table or map. *Id.* ¶ 54. OEM maps adjust air-to-fuel ratio, timing, EGR percentage, etc., to produce an acceptable level of power, torque, and fuel economy, while keeping the vehicle's emissions within the legal limits. Jones Decl. ¶ 60. Maps are produced to EPA as part of the motor vehicle certification process. 40 C.F.R. § 86.1844-01(g)(6). Changing map values over-writes the OEM parameters to levels/limits high enough that the threshold to trigger emission controls is never reached, thereby defeating OEM

1 calibrations that ensure the vehicle meets emission standards. Jones Decl. ¶  
2 60. For example, tunes can change the DPF map values to a high enough  
3 level that PM accumulates beyond the OEM-set threshold levels without  
4 causing the DPF to regenerate and trigger the DTCs. *Id.*

5  
6 4) **Executable code modification.** Tunes modify the actual executable code  
7 in the binary image, i.e., tune, instead of the maps. *Id.* ¶ 62. This is a step  
8 further and more technical than changing the maps, because it requires  
9 using a disassembler to convert the 1's and 0's of binary executable back  
10 into assembly language, then the actual instructions are modified to change  
11 the behavior of the program. *Id.* ¶¶ 62-63. For example, if the OEM  
12 instructions related to an emission control read "If DEF Level < 5 Then  
13 Turn MIL ON," modifying the actual OEM instructions through executable  
14 code modification to change the behavior would change the instructions to  
15 "If DEF Level < 5 Then Turn MIL OFF." *Id.* ¶¶ 63-64. This also requires a  
16 technical skill set or background in computer science or engineering, but is  
17 highly effective, because it can be repeated infinite times to the OEM  
18 certified stock image. Jones Decl. ¶ 65. Once all of the checks related to  
19 emission controls are suppressed, the modified image is then written back  
20 to the ECM using the same technique. *Id.*

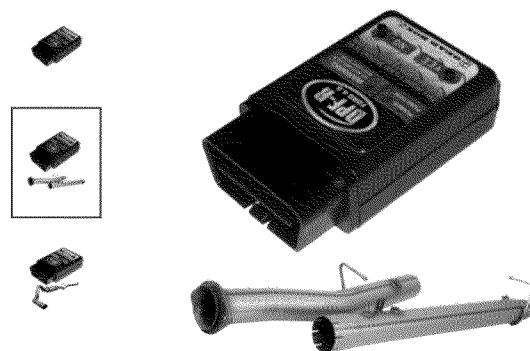
21 GBZ's tuners use the above methods, alone or in combination, to defeat  
22 emission controls and provide the advertised engine performance. *Id.* ¶¶ 46, 74.  
23  
24  
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1 For example, GBZ's tunes include modified ECM binary images containing code  
2 that is uploaded to the ECM and suppress DTCs related to emissions controls  
3 through modified maps and executable code modification. Jones Decl. ¶¶ 65-66,  
4 69. Delete tunes may also use signal emulation or CAN Bus emulation to  
5 convince the ECM that the emission control system is functioning properly.  
6  
7 *Id.* ¶ 70.

8 c. Product Analysis of the GBZ-FD40 Ford 4.0 Programmer

9  
10 On GBZ's website, tuners are listed for sale under "Gauges, Monitor and  
11 Tuning Systems." *Id.* ¶ 75. GBZ's highest selling tuner is the GBZ-FD40 Ford  
12 4.0 Programmer. GBZ sold 3,375 of these programmers during the Reporting  
13 Period. Galer Decl. ¶ 15; Ex B (Table 2). The GBZ Ford 4.0 Programmer  
14 reprograms the ECM and suppresses DTCs, allowing a Ford truck to operate  
15 without the EGR, DOC, and DPF. Jones Decl. ¶¶ 79, 86-87. On GBZ's website,  
16 when a customer selects the Ford 4.0 Programmer a drop-down menu titled "Ford  
17 Exhaust Options" is presented that requires choosing one of three hardware delete  
18 hardware options, one of which is called the "CAT/DPF Delete Race Exhaust."  
19  
20 *Id.* ¶ 77. Selecting this option adds two straight pipes to the order. Installation of  
21 these straight pipes requires the removal of the DOC and DPF and the Ford 4.0  
22 Programmer to upload a delete tune to the ECM so that the vehicle can operate  
23 without these hardware emissions controls. *Id.* ¶¶ 79, 86-87. A screen shot of the  
24 GBZ webpage listing the Ford 4.0 Programmer is reproduced below, which shows

the two straight pipes included with the selected “Ford Exhaust Option” of  
 “CAT/DPF Delete Race Exhaust.”



### FORD 4.0 PROGRAMMER (GBZ-FD40)

\$853.00

FORD EXHAUST OPTIONS

QUANTITY

CAT/DPF Delete Race Exhaust

1

ADD TO CART

#### Product Information:

The 4.0 for Ford 6.4L 2008-2010 trucks. The 4.0 is designed to be a fully reversible and temporary DPF maintenance tool for trucks equipped with DPF filters. This is the electronics only for use with a racing exhaust kit or maintenance pipe.

#### Features:

- Reprograms the ECU for trouble free maintenance
- Voice Prompted menu system
- Reads and clears DTCs
- Fully reversible
- Easy Install
  - No Drilling
  - No Cutting
  - No Welding

#### Includes:

- Ford 4.0 Programmer

#### Instruction Sheets:

4.0 DPF-R FORD Instructions

As the image above shows, the product “Features” list includes “Reads and clears DTCs.” Jones Decl. ¶ 81. The description links to the product manual, which lists all of the DTCs that the Ford 4.0 Programmer can clear, including several pertaining to emission controls. *Id.* ¶ 82. To use the Ford 4.0 Programmer in “DTC Mode,” the product manual guides the end-user to clear (which in this application means suppress) all DTCs, including any that typically generate when removing the DOC and DPF. *Id.* ¶¶ 82, 85. The end-user may also choose “ECM Program Mode.” During this step, the ECM is reprogrammed with

1 a new binary image. Jones Decl. ¶ 86. The new binary image is designed to  
 2 operate with Ford model year 2011 diesel trucks that have the DOC and DPF  
 3 removed. *Id.* The delete tuning methods employed here are mapping table  
 4 modification, likely executable code modification, and signal emulation. *Id.* ¶ 87.

6 d. GBZ Online Customer Communications

7 GBZ's online customer reviews and Q&As also demonstrate that its tunes  
 8 use the tuning methods outlined above. A publicly-available customer review for  
 9 a GBZ tuner is reproduced below, and it confirms that the tuner downloads the  
 10 ECM image to suppress DTCs after installing deletes. *Id.* ¶ 103. The customer  
 11 says, "I installed dpf and cat delete pipes and egr delete kit and no codes." *Id.*

13 *Tony on May 01, 2016*

14 Wasn't sure about this tuner because of the price being so low compared to H&S and SCT tuners, but I decided to give it a try... it installs  
 15 very easily, just plug it into OBDII port and it goes through the tuning and tells you when to unplug it. I installed dpf and cat delete pipes  
 16 and egr delete kit and no codes. Runs much stronger and around 3 mpg better. I have the no hp gain tuner. You can feel the engine runs  
 much freer. A good little tuner for the price

17 In response to a customer's question about which tuners support EGR block  
 18 plates, GBZ answers, "[A]ll of our programmers support the EGR plates."

19 Jones Decl. ¶ 99. In addition to selling EGR block plates, GBZ manufactures  
 20 these hardware defeat devices that bypass the EGR system. Jones Decl. Appx D  
 21 ¶¶ 159-161. In order to "support EGR plates" the GBZ tuner disables EGR-  
 22 related DTCs. *Id.* ¶ 100. GBZ explains to its customers that its "maintenance  
 23 mode" add-on, equipped on all GBZ tuners, disables the EGR-related DTCs.  
 24

25 Jones Decl. ¶ 100; Galer Decl. ¶ 15 Ex. B.

1 Thus, GBZ's own admissions and the United States experts' analyses show  
2 that a principal effect of all of GBZ's products in Attachment A is to defeat,  
3 bypass, or render inoperative the emission controls on a motor vehicle by  
4 physically replacing them with hardware defeat devices and/or installing tunes that  
5 use one of the tuning methods described above to alter the ECM and/or the OBD  
6 programming. Jorquera Decl. ¶¶ 31, 62; Galer Decl. ¶ 20; Jones Decl. ¶¶ 2, 111.

8  
9 **3. GBZ Knew that Its Products Were Being Used on Motor  
Vehicles for Purposes of Defeating Emission Controls**

10 GBZ knew that the products it manufactured, sold, and offered for sale  
11 were intended to be installed on a motor vehicle and used to bypass, defeat, or  
12 render inoperative emissions control devices. GBZ's defeat devices are marketed  
13 for use with various Ford, GM, and Dodge make and model year diesel trucks.  
14 Galer Decl. ¶ 19. On GBZ's website, when purchasing a defeat device, customers  
15 must select the vehicle make and model from the Ford, Dodge, and GM options  
16 provided; which are all EPA-certified motor vehicles. *Id.* GBZ's marketing,  
17 product descriptions, product manuals, and online communications all demonstrate  
18 GBZ's awareness of the use and purpose of its defeat devices on Ford, GM, and  
19 Dodge trucks. Jorquera Decl. ¶¶ 49-52.

23 GBZ also knew that installing and using its products on these diesel trucks  
24 removes or bypasses pollution controls. GBZ admitted to EPA that all of its  
25 exhaust system components (hardware defeat devices) enable removal of the DPF,  
26



DOC, and/or EGR and that one tuner, the Dodge 3.0 (GBZ-DD30), disables or renders inoperative the DPF.<sup>6</sup> Galer Decl. ¶ 15; Ex. B (Table 2). GBZ also admits that its “maintenance mode” tune, identified as an “Add-On for all OBD Products,” enables removal of the DPF, EGR, and SCR by preventing the OBD system from detecting the missing emission related parts. *Id.* Notably, GBZ’s sale numbers show that “maintenance mode” was included with every tuner GBZ sold. *Id.* Additionally, GBZ’s current website includes product descriptions that mention these capabilities (e.g., “4 Down-Pipe CAT/DPF Delete Exhaust”<sup>7</sup>), user manuals with specific instructions to remove or bypass controls (“Exhaust sensors do not need to go back in the pipe”<sup>8</sup>), as well as customer reviews and responses to customer questions submitted online that discuss the effect of removing the emission controls on their trucks (“All of our programmers support the EGR [delete] plates”<sup>9</sup>).

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<sup>6</sup> GBZ’s response to EPA’s information request identifies products sold between January 1, 2015 and April 24, 2017. However, the same products identified in GBZ’s response are still offered for sale on GBZ’s publicly available website, [www.gearboxz.com](http://www.gearboxz.com), as of August 4, 2020.

<sup>7</sup> Gear Box Z, *Duramax 4.0 Programmer*, <https://gearboxz.com/collections/gm/products/duramax-4-0-programmer-gbz-gmd40?variant=22035159879> (last visited May 21, 2020).

<sup>8</sup> Gear Box Z, *Ford DPF-R 4.0 Installation Instructions*, <https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/1286/9547/files/FD40.pdf?593079092716441981> (last visited May 21, 2020).

<sup>9</sup> Gear Box Z, *Customer Questions and Answers*, (April 26, 2017), <https://gearboxz.com/blogs/news/customer-questions-and-answers-6> (last visited May 21, 2020).

Thus, this element is satisfied and the United States is highly likely to succeed in establishing that the aftermarket defeat devices it seeks to prohibit GBZ from manufacturing and selling are illegal under Section 203(a)(3)(B) of the CAA.<sup>10</sup>

### **B. GBZ's Products Cause Irreparable Harm**

The traditional showing of irreparable harm is outlined in the subsequent sections, starting with the EPA estimated amount of excess emissions GBZ's products cause vehicles to generate, followed by the irreparable harm to human health that is caused by each air pollutant in excess. However, this requisite demonstration of harm is not essential here. When the United States is bringing a statutory enforcement action that authorizes injunctive relief, such as the Clean Air Act, the court can presume irreparable harm. *See FTC v. Consumer Def., LLC*, 926 F.3d 1208, 1213 (9th Cir. 2019). This standard in governmental enforcement actions authorized by statute has been applied in cases pertaining to vast subject matters. *United States v. Odessa Union Warehouse Co-op*, 833 F.2d 173, 175-76

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<sup>10</sup> Notably, GBZ claims it is exempted from Section 203(a)(3)(B) of the CAA because of a "maintenance exception." However, this is an affirmative defense that GBZ has the burden of proving, as this is the "general rule where [the defendant] claims the benefits of an exception to the prohibition of a statute." *U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Comm'n v. Monex Credit Co.*, 931 F.3d 966, 973 (9th Cir. 2019) (quoting *United States v. First City Nat'l Bank of Houston*, 386 U.S. 361, 366 (1967)).

(9th Cir. 1987) (Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act); *Navel Orange Admin. Comm. v. Exeter Orange Co., Inc.*, 722 F.2d 449, 453 (9th Cir. 1983) (Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act); *United States v. Hayes Int'l Corp.*, 415 F.2d 1038, 1045 (5th Cir. 1969) (Civil Rights Act).

GBZ's products cause vehicles to generate excess emissions of air pollution, resulting in irreparable harm to human health, specifically to respiratory and cardiovascular systems. It is well established that harm to human health and the environment constitutes irreparable harm for purposes of a preliminary injunction because "environmental injury, by its nature, can seldom be adequately remedied by monetary damages and is often permanent or at least of long duration, i.e., irreparable." *Amoco Prod. Co. v. Vill. of Gambell, Alaska*, 480 U.S. 531, 545 (1987); *see also High Sierra Hikers Ass'n v. Blackwell*, 390 F.3d 630, 642 (9th Cir. 2004). It is undeniable that excess emissions from diesel trucks adversely affect the environment and create long-lasting, often permanent adverse health effects.

### **1. GBZ's Products Cause Excess Emissions of Harmful Air Pollutants**

As discussed above, GBZ's illegal products include EGR block plates; hollow straight pipes that replace aftertreatment controls such as DOC, DPF, and SCR, and any related sensor and actuators; and tunes that modify or manipulate the ECM to enable removing hardware emission controls, change emissions-

1 related calibrations, and alter OBD functions so that such changes are not detected.  
2 Jorquera Decl. ¶¶ 31-38; Jones Decl. ¶¶ 13, 26, 45-46, 53, 99-104, 111. The use  
3 of GBZ's illegal products to disable emission controls cause diesel trucks to  
4 generate excess emissions of PM, NO<sub>x</sub>, CO, and NMHC beyond EPA-approved  
5 levels. Jorquera Decl. ¶ 62. Because these controls reduce emissions by over 90  
6 percent, removing or disabling them results in a vehicle producing from 10 to over  
7 100 times the emissions it was certified to emit. *Id.* ¶ 18. On average, without  
8 emission controls, diesel trucks pollute at pre-2002 EPA emission standards levels,  
9 essentially reversing 20 years of EPA air pollution control. *Id.* ¶ 43.

12 EPA developed a two-pronged approach to estimate the excess pollution  
13 caused by removing emission controls from diesel trucks: testing and engineering  
14 analysis. *Id.* ¶ 39. Testing entails running a certified stock calibrated diesel truck  
15 through standard emissions testing in a laboratory, then deleting the emission  
16 controls and re-testing the truck to measure the change in emissions. *Id.* ¶ 41.  
18 EPA and its contractor, Eastern Research Group, Inc. ("ERG"), conducted 67 tests  
19 on five diesel pickup trucks using defeat device products functionally equivalent  
20 to GBZ's products. Jorquera Decl. ¶¶ 41-42, 56. Sixty-one of the tests were  
21 conducted with a tuner and the emissions control hardware intact, whereas six  
22 tests were conducted with a tuner and all of the emission controls removed (i.e., a  
23 "fully deleted truck" with a straight pipe installed in place of the factory exhaust  
24 system). *Id.* ¶ 42.

1       The EPA testing conducted with tuners and full deletes is representative of  
2 the excess emissions that result from GBZ products, as the GBZ tuners and  
3 straight pipes for Ford diesel trucks are functionally equivalent to two  
4 configurations EPA tested. Jorquera Decl. ¶ 56. The testing results demonstrate  
5 that GBZ's products cause exponentially higher emissions than a truck in its  
6 certified configuration. *Id.* For example, the EPA testing shows that a 2011 Ford  
7 diesel truck equipped with a tuner and straight pipe functionally equivalent to a  
8 GBZ tuner and GBZ "CAT/DPF Delete Race Exhaust" (straight pipe) emits 310  
9 times more NO<sub>x</sub>; 1,140 times more NMHC; 120 times more CO; and 40 times  
10 more PM than a 2011 Ford diesel truck equipped with certified stock emissions  
11 controls. *Id.* ¶ 56. The emission increases may differ slightly for other Ford  
12 trucks in different model years or with different engine displacements, but the net  
13 effect is essentially the same—a substantial increase in emissions. *Id.*

14  
15  
16  
17       EPA also used engineering analysis to estimate the effect of GBZ's  
18 products. Engineering analysis uses engineering principles to estimate the  
19 emissions from a diesel truck without emission controls. *Id.* ¶¶ 43, 57. This  
20 conservative approach compares the certified emission rates from a fully-  
21 controlled truck meeting then-current EPA emissions standards using emission  
22 controls such as a DOC, DPF, EGR, and SCR (as applicable) against a similar  
23 truck with a similar engine built for the model year 2002. *Id.* ¶ 43. EPA used the  
24 model year 2002 trucks as the base comparison because aftertreatment emission  
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1 controls were not necessary for trucks to meet 2002 emission standards and are  
2 thus equivalent to a fully deleted truck. Jorquera Decl. ¶ 43. Furthermore, diesel  
3 engines have not changed significantly over time, so a 2002 and 2020 diesel  
4 engine are essentially technologically equivalent in function – although the  
5 emissions control technology has advanced considerably. *Id.*

7 EPA's engineering analyses also show that GBZ products for pre-2011  
8 trucks cause significant increases in emissions. Jorquera Decl. ¶ 58. For model  
9 year 2004-2007 Dodge/Cummins engines, NMHC increases by seven times, CO  
10 increases by eight times, NO<sub>x</sub> increases by ten times, and PM increases by forty-  
11 five times. *Id.* For model year 2008-2010 Ford trucks, CO increases twenty-one  
12 times and NO<sub>x</sub> increases thirty-seven times. *Id.* For model year 2007-2010 GM  
13 trucks, CO increases by six times and NO<sub>x</sub> increases by thirty times. *Id.* ¶ 55.  
14 This engineering analysis is highly conservative because it results in lower  
15 estimated excess emissions rates for a fully deleted 2011 Ford truck than EPA's  
16 own test results. *Id.* ¶¶ 46-48. For example, EPA testing demonstrates that the  
17 2011 Ford trucks actually generate excess emissions closer to the same rate as a  
18 pre-control diesel truck did in the 1980's. Jorquera Decl. ¶¶ 46-47, 58. Therefore,  
19 the estimated emission increases using engineering analysis are less than what  
20 testing results have demonstrated in similar applications. *Id.* ¶¶ 46-48.

25 The cumulative impacts of excess emissions from GBZ's products,  
26 estimated by EPA using a conservative methodology, are astounding and undo  
27

1 years of EPA regulation and industry advances in emissions control technology.  
2 The analysis shows that just 28 months of GBZ sales created an estimated 3,790  
3 tons of excess NO<sub>x</sub> emissions, 87 tons of excess PM emissions, 1,722 tons of  
4 excess CO, and 120 tons of excess NMHC over the remaining life of the vehicles  
5 equipped with GBZ's defeat devices. Jorquera Decl ¶ 60. GBZ averaged 262  
6 sales per month for the reported sales period, which means each month GBZ's  
7 products are estimated to result in excess emissions of 132 tons of NO<sub>x</sub>, 3 tons of  
8 PM, 62 tons of CO emissions, and 4 tons of NMHC over the remaining life of the  
9 vehicles. *Id.* ¶ 61. EPA utilized a conservative methodology in calculating these  
10 estimated emission increases. *Id.* ¶ 60. For example, to prevent double counting,  
11 GBZ's sales of EGR block plates, DPF emulators, and straight pipes were not  
12 counted because these parts may have been installed on the same trucks that GBZ  
13 tunes were installed on. *Id.* As a result, even though GBZ reported 8,323 sales of  
14 defeat devices between January 1, 2015, and April 24, 2017, the calculation only  
15 assumes 7,328 deleted trucks, representative of the 7,328 delete tuners GBZ sold.  
16 Jorquera Decl. ¶ 60; Galer Decl. ¶ 15; Ex. B (Table 2). More importantly, this  
17 only accounts for a 28-month period of GBZ sales. *Id.* GBZ sold defeat devices  
18 before this period, after this period, and currently offers these products for sale.  
19 Therefore, these alarmingly high estimates likely only represent a fraction of the  
20 actual excess emissions of harmful pollution caused by GBZ.  
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## 2. Excess Emissions Cause Irreparable Harm to Human Health

The negative health impacts from air pollutants found in diesel exhaust, like PM, NO<sub>x</sub>, CO, and NMHC, are well known. *See Am. Petroleum Inst. v. EPA*, 684 F.3d 1342, 1345 (D.C. Cir. 2012) (Combustion processes in automobile and truck engines account for most of the production of NO<sub>x</sub>, which have a variety of documented adverse effects on human health, including increases in asthma attacks respiratory illness in children.). CO, NO<sub>x</sub>, and PM are criteria pollutants under the CAA, meaning EPA must establish national ambient air quality standards for these pollutants because of the danger they pose to human health. *See* 40 C.F.R. §§ 50.1-50.19. The adverse impact to respiratory health caused by air pollution, especially for those with respiratory ailments, is a textbook example of irreparable harm. *Beame v. Friends of the Earth*, 434 U.S. 1310, 1314 (1977).

Diesel exhaust is a major source of these air pollutants and they are easily inhaled by the public, particularly in urban environments. Jorquera Decl. ¶ 11. Burning diesel fuel forms NO<sub>x</sub>, which includes nitrogen dioxide, a pollutant known to aggravate asthma and contribute to the development of asthma.<sup>11</sup> NO<sub>x</sub> and NMHCs are reactive gases that contribute to the formation of ozone and PM.

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<sup>11</sup> Integrated Science Assessment (ISA) for Oxides of Nitrogen – Health Criteria (Final Report). U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC, EPA/600/R-15/068, 2016.



1 85 Fed. Reg. 3,306, 3,310 (Jan. 21, 2020). Ozone exposure reduces lung function  
2 and causes respiratory symptoms like coughing, shortness of breath, chest pain,  
3 and congestion, and worsens bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma. *Id.* PM is a  
4 mixture of solid particles and liquid droplets that form in the air from the reaction  
5 of NO<sub>x</sub>.<sup>12</sup> PM in diesel emissions include PM 2.5 particles, which are very small,  
6 roughly 30 times smaller than a human hair. *Id.* Exposure to PM can cause  
7 harmful effects on the cardiovascular and respiratory systems, including heart  
8 attacks, strokes, and asthma attacks. 85 Fed. Reg. 3,306, 3,310 (Jan. 21, 2020).  
9 CO is a colorless, odorless, highly toxic gas that forms when the carbon in fuel  
10 does not burn completely.<sup>13</sup> When inhaled, CO can reduce the amount of oxygen  
11 transported in the blood stream to essential organs like the heart and brain. *Id.*  
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15 These various health problems may result in increased medication use,  
16 emergency room visits, hospitalizations, and in some cases, premature death. *Id.*  
17 Vulnerable groups such as the elderly, children, outdoor workers, and those with  
18 heart or lung disease are particularly at risk from exposure. *Id.* The current  
19 COVID-19 health crisis exemplifies how underlying health conditions like those  
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23 <sup>12</sup> U.S. EPA, *Particulate Matter (PM) Basics*, [https://www.epa.gov/pm-](https://www.epa.gov/pm-pollution/particulate-matter-pm-basics)  
24 [pollution/particulate-matter-pm-basics](https://www.epa.gov/pm-pollution/particulate-matter-pm-basics) (last updated Nov. 14, 2018).

25 <sup>13</sup> U.S. EPA, *Carbon Monoxide (CO) Pollution in Outdoor Air*,  
26 [https://www.epa.gov/co-pollution/basic-information-about-carbon-monoxide-co-](https://www.epa.gov/co-pollution/basic-information-about-carbon-monoxide-co-outdoor-air-pollution#Effects)  
[outdoor-air-pollution#Effects](https://www.epa.gov/co-pollution/basic-information-about-carbon-monoxide-co-outdoor-air-pollution#Effects) (last updated Sept. 8, 2016).

1 caused by these pollutants, can increase susceptibility to other infections, which  
2 can be fatal. The health risks from exposure to these pollutants and environmental  
3 impacts cannot be undone or remedied, and are by definition irreparable and merit  
4 an injunction to prevent further harm. *Shell Offshore Inc. v. Greenpeace, Inc.*, 864  
5 F. Supp. 2d 839, 851 (D. Alaska 2012).  
6

7 It is undeniable that GBZ's illegal products have generated excess  
8 emissions, which has caused and will continue to cause irreparable harm.  
9 Respiratory illnesses, cancer, and heart disease are often permanent and  
10 incommensurable with money, emphasizing the necessity of an injunction to  
11 prevent any further damage.  
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14 **C. Public Health Harm Outweighs Potential Economic Harm to**  
15 **GBZ**

16 Before issuing an injunction, the Court must find that the balance of  
17 hardships favors the plaintiff. *Winter*, 555 U.S. at 20. In this case, that balance  
18 weighs heavily in favor of issuing a preliminary injunction. Specifically, the harm  
19 to public health and the environment from excess emissions of air pollution  
20 associated with GBZ's defeat devices substantially outweighs any potential harm  
21 to GBZ in temporarily halting sales and transfers of its defeat devices.  
22

23 Generally, courts have found that avoiding even **potential** harm to the  
24 public health and environment trumps **certain** economic loss to the polluter.  
25 *League of Wilderness Def. v. Forsgren*, 184 F. Supp. 2d 1058, 1070-71 (D. Or.  
26

2002) (finding that potential harm to environment outweighs certain financial loss); *see also Arkansas Wildlife Fed'n v. Bekaert Corp.*, 791 F. Supp. 769, 784 (W.D. Ark. 1992) (finding that issuing an injunction with strict adherence to permit levels that would likely put the defendant out of business was outweighed by the benefit to the community of lessening the environmental harm). Here, the harm to human health and the environment is not just possible but is certain and permanent. In contrast, any economic harm to GBZ is the mere delay of its profits from selling defeat devices. Such economic harm is not “irreparable.” *Los Angeles Mem'l Coliseum Comm'n v. NFL*, 634 F.2d 1197, 1202 (9th Cir. 1980). In contrast, the loss of life and impact of living with a serious respiratory illness or disease cannot be rectified and thus clearly outweighs temporary financial loss, which favors issuing the requested injunction.

**D. A Preliminary Injunction is in the Public Interest and Furthers the Goals of the CAA**

Congress’ goals behind the CAA further supports issuance of a preliminary injunction in this case. Congress enacted the CAA “to protect and enhance the quality of the Nation’s air resources as to promote the public health and welfare and the productive capacity of its population,” and “to initiate and accelerate a national research and development program to achieve the prevention and control of air pollution.” *See* 42 U.S.C. § 7401(b). In creating the CAA, Congress found, in part, that “the increasing use of motor vehicles . . . has resulted in mounting

1 dangers to public health and welfare.” 42 U.S.C. § 7401(a)(2). EPA is required to  
2 set emission standards for air pollutants from motor vehicles, which have been  
3 found to cause, or contribute to, air pollution that may endanger public health or  
4 welfare. 42 U.S.C. § 7521(a)(1). These pollutants include NO<sub>x</sub>, PM, NMHCs,  
5 and CO. 42 U.S.C. § 7521(a)(3)(A).  
6

7       Vehicle emission controls are crucial to achieving emission standards and  
8 thereby reducing air pollution. Recognizing this, Congress prohibited the  
9 manufacture, sale, and installation of defeat devices. 42 U.S.C. § 7522(a)(3)(B).  
10 The sale and installation of defeat devices on motor vehicles nullifies emission  
11 limits, derails long-term EPA projections and goals to reduce air pollution, and  
12 harms public health and the environment. While this Court has equitable  
13 discretion in selecting the appropriate injunctive relief, “Courts of equity cannot,  
14 in their discretion, reject the balance that Congress has struck in a statute.” *United*  
15 *States v. Oakland Cannabis Buyers’ Coop.*, 532 U.S. 483, 497-98 (2001).  
16 Congress prohibited the sale of defeat devices to ensure that EPA emission limits  
17 are adhered to in an effort to achieve air quality standards to protect public health  
18 and the environment. The United States’ proposed injunction prevents additional  
19 defeat devices from entering commerce and voiding vehicle emission controls, in  
20 the least impactful way to Defendant.  
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25       Halting GBZ’s illegal actions that frustrate the CAA objectives benefits the  
26 public interest. *High Sierra Hikers Ass’n*, 390 F.3d at 642 (public interest  
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28

1 benefitted by preliminary injunction when the management practices of defendant  
2 was contrary to environmental statute's goals); *see also City of S. Pasadena v.*  
3 *Slater*, 56 F. Supp. 2d 1106, 1142 (C.D. Cal. 1999) (potential violations of the  
4 CAA and other environmental statutes sufficient for the issuance of a preliminary  
5 injunction). Thus, temporarily halting GBZ's illegal sale and transfer of defeat  
6 devices for diesel trucks best serves the public interest and Congressional intent of  
7 enhancing air quality to protect public health and productivity, thereby favoring  
8 preliminary relief here.  
9

### 11 CONCLUSION

12 The United States respectfully requests that this Court prevent further  
13 environmental harm caused by GBZ's illegal activity by ordering GBZ to cease all  
14 sales and transfer of its defeat device products as identified in the "GBZ Defeat  
15 Device" product list in Attachment A, as well as any substantially similar  
16 products, and any associated intellectual property.  
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18  
19 Respectfully submitted,

20  
21 s/ Samantha M Ricci

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